

Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (20829) - RELATIONSHIP AMONG COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS, COMMUNITY ATTACHMENT AND RESTORATIVE EXPERIENCES

Seiji Shibata¹

1 - Sagami Women's University

Background and objectives

Perceived desirability of the environment is one of the important factors in the formation of place attachment, and therefore it can be hypothesized that high restorative properties of the environment can serve as a predictor of place attachment formation. However, there has been little research on the relationship between place attachment and environmental restorative properties, and the relationship is not well understood. In this study, we examined the relationship between the physical and social characteristics of an area that bring about recovery experiences and attachment to the area.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

We conducted an online survey of adults who had lived in their current area for at least three years. A total of 1,964 complete responses were collected. As for the characteristics of the local environment, we used a scale consisting of 17 items, including the amount of greenery and the size of the sky. For attachment to the community, eight items — such as "I feel attached to this community"— were used, and for restorative experiences in the community, five items — such as "I feel relieved from fatigue"— were used. All scales were rated on a five-point scale.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

There was a strong positive correlation between the environmental characteristics of the community, attachment to the community, and the restorative experiences, all of which were more than 0.60. In addition, the results of multiple regression analyses showed that, in addition to the general environmental quality, rural nature and social cohesiveness had positive effects on attachment.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The accumulation of "micro-restorative experiences" in daily life is important for people's psychological well-being. In this study, restorative characteristics in the community were shown to affect attachment to the community positively. Since their community is where people spend most of their daily lives, making it more restorative would significantly impact psychological well-being.

Palavras-chave : physical and social characteristics, community, attachment, restorativeness